

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are presently active in this case, claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 amended by way of the present Amendment, and claim 22 added by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 11-21 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention; claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-216923A; claims 1 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-142346A; and claims 9 and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 9 and 10. Applicants have now amended claim 9 to include the limitations of claim 9's original base and intervening claims. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance.

Turning now to the prior art rejection, in order to expedite issuance of the patent in this case, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify the patentable features of the present invention over the cited references. Specifically, Applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a rotary connector having a first part and a second part rotationally coupled to the first part to form an interior of the rotary connector. Also recited is a first flat cable having a single ribbon conductor, and a second flat cable having multiple conductor wires wherein the first and second flat cables are housed within the interior of the rotary connector. Further included is an overcurrent protection device housed within an integral space of the rotary connector and configured to provide overcurrent protection for at least one of the first and second flat cables. Thus, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the interior of

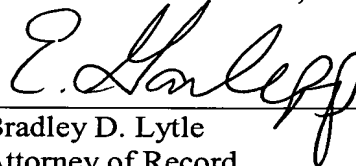
the rotary connector includes a first flat cable having a single ribbon conductor and a second flat cable having multiple conductor wires. An example of a first flat cable having a single ribbon conductor is shown in Figure 10, and an example of a second flat cable having multiple conductor wires is shown in Figure 9.

In contrast, as clearly seen by the figures of JP 2002-216923 and JP 2002-142346, neither of these cited references teach or suggest a rotary connector having a first flat cable with a single ribbon conductor, and a second flat cable with multiple conductor wire. Thus, Applicants' independent claim 1 patentably defines over the cited references. Moreover, as claims 2-8 and 22 depend from claim 1, these claims also patentably define over the cited references. In addition, however, Applicants have added new claim 22 depending from claim 1, which recites that the at least one of the plurality of flat cables provided with overcurrent protection is the first flat cable, which is configured to provide input and output high current to the rotary connector. In contrast, neither of the above noted JP references teach or suggest that a high current single ribbon conductor is provided with overcurrent protection. Thus, claim 22 provides an additional basis for patentability over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding on the present application. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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